

Application No. 10/533,764  
 Amendment Dated: December 4, 2006  
 Reply to Office Action of October 2, 2006

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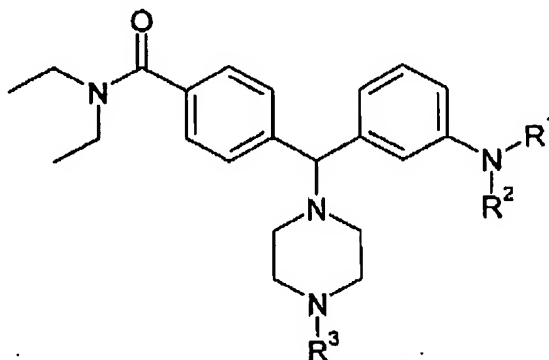
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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-8</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-9</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-9</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, R<sup>8</sup>-C(=O)-, R<sup>8</sup>-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>-, R<sup>8</sup>-S(=O)-, R<sup>8</sup>-NHC(=O)-, R<sup>8</sup>-C(=S)- and R<sup>8</sup>-NH-C(=S)-, wherein R<sup>8</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-8</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-9</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-9</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>3-8</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-9</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-9</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-8</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl used in defining R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub>, -SR, -SO<sub>3</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR<sub>2</sub>, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, selected from -H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl and phenyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -H and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, and halogen; and

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from -H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy and halogen.

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2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -H and C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from -H and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 2,

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is R<sup>9</sup>-CH<sub>2</sub>-, wherein R<sup>9</sup> is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, N-oxido-pyridyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, thienylmethyl, furylmethyl, imidazolylmethyl, triazolylmethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, thiazolylmethyl and N-oxido-pyridylmethyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy and halogen; and

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are hydrogen.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 3,

wherein R<sup>9</sup> is selected from benzyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl and thiazolyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen.

5. (original) A compound according to claim 4, wherein

wherein R<sup>9</sup> is selected from benzyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl and thiazolyl.

6. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

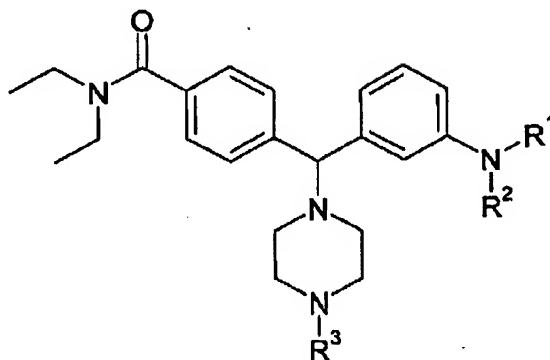
R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;

R<sup>2</sup> is -H or C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is -H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-8</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-8</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen.

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7. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



I

wherein

$R^1$  is selected from 1-propyl, 2-propyl, 1-butyl, 2-butyl, t-butyl, 2-methyl-1-propyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, cyclooctyl, and cyclononyl;

$R^2$  is selected from -H, methyl, ethyl, 1-propyl and 2-propyl; and

$R^3$  is selected from -H, methyl, ethyl, allyl, 3,3-dimethyl-allyl, cyclopropylmethyl, 2-methoxy-ethyl, and 3-methoxy-1-propyl.

8. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

$R^1$  is selected from  $R^8-C(=O)-$ ,  $R^8-S(=O)_2-$ ,  $R^8-S(=O)-$ ,  $R^8-NHC(=O)-$ ,  $R^8-C(=S)-$  and  $R^8-NH-C(=S)-$ , wherein  $R^8$  is selected from  $C_{3-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; wherein said  $C_{3-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl are optionally substituted with  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halogen,  $-CF_3$ ,  $-OH$ ,  $C_{1-3}$ alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;

$R^2$  is -H; and

$R^3$  is selected from -H and  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-O-C(=O)-.

9. (original) A compound according to claim 8, wherein

$R^8$  is selected from phenyl, benzyl, phenethyl and cyclohexyl, wherein said phenyl, benzyl, phenethyl and cyclohexyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from methyl, methoxy and halogen.

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10. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

N,N-diethyl-4-((S)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(1,3-thiazol-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl)methyl}benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(1,3-thiazol-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl)methyl}benzamide;  
4-[(S)-[3-(benzylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl)methyl}benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-((S)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl)methyl}benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-[3-[(2-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(R)-[3-(benzylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-[3-[(2-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-3-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl)methyl}benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-((S)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-3-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl)methyl}benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-[3-[(3-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-[3-[(2-phenylethyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(R)-[3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[[4-trifluoromethyl]benzyl]amino]phenyl)methyl}benzamide;  
4-[(R)-[3-[(cyclopentylmethyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(S)-[3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(R)-[3-[(cyclohex-1-en-1-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-[3-[methyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-[3-[ethyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-[3-[methyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-[3-[ethyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(R)-[3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(R)-[3-(cyclopentylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(R)-[3-(cycloheptylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(R)-[3-(cyclooctylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(R)-[3-(cyclononylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(S)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-[3-[(4-methylphenyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-[3-[(4-methylphenyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

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4-[(R)-{3-[(3-chlorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(S)-{3-[(3-chlorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(2-fluorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(S)-{3-[(2-fluorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(benzoylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(phenylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(S)-{3-[(benzoylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(phenylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(2-methyl-2-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(3-fluorophenyl)acetyl]amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(3-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(benzylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(anilino)carbonyl]amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(anilino)carbonothioyl]amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-1-piperazinyl[3-(propylamino)phenyl]methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(S)-{3-(dipropylamino)phenyl}-1-piperazinylmethyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-1-piperazinyl[3-(propylamino)phenyl]methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-(dipropylamino)phenyl}-1-piperazinylmethyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-1-piperazinyl[3-[[4-(3-pyridinyl)phenyl]methyl]amino]phenyl]methyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[[4-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl]methyl]amino]phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-1-piperazinyl[3-[(2-quinolinylmethyl)amino]phenyl]-methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[(2,2-diphenylethyl)amino]phenyl}-1-piperazinylmethyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(R)-{3-[[4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]amino]phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[[4-(4-phenoxyphenyl)methyl]amino]phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-[4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-(propylamino)-phenyl]methyl]benzamide;  
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-[4-(2-methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-(propylamino)-phenyl]methyl]benzamide;

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*N,N*-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(3-methoxypropyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-(propyl-amino)phenyl]methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(*S*)-[3-(cycloheptylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(*S*)-[3-(cyclooctylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;  
*N,N*-diethyl-4-[(*S*)-[3-[(3-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(*R*)-[3-(aminophenyl)[4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(*R*)-[3-(aminophenyl)[4-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(*R*)-[3-(aminophenyl)[4-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;  
*N,N*-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]benzamide;  
*N,N*-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]benzamide;  
4-[(*R*)-[4-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(*S*)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl][4-(cyclopropylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(*S*)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl](4-propylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(*S*)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl](4-ethylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(*S*)-[4-allylpiperazin-1-yl][3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl]methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(*S*)-[3-[(cyclohexylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(*S*)-[3-[(cyclohexylacetyl)amino]phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(*S*)-[3-(cyclohexyl(methyl)amino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;  
4-[(*R*)-[3-(cyclohexyl(methyl)amino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;  
enantiomers thereof; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

11-12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

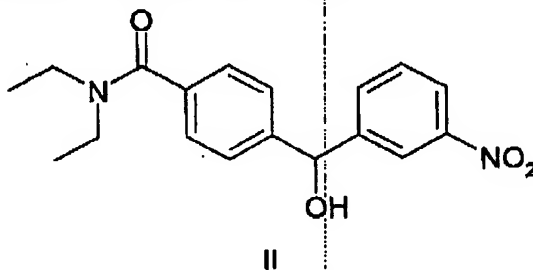
Claim 14. (previously presented) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

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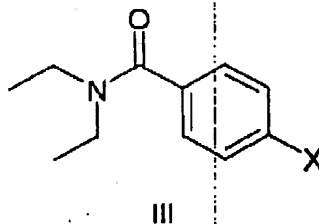
Claim 15. (cancelled)

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A method for the therapy of anxiety in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

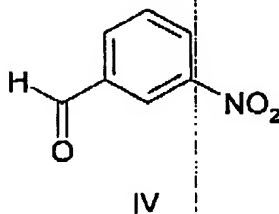
Claim 17. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula II, comprising:



a) reacting a compound of formula III:



with a compound of formula IV

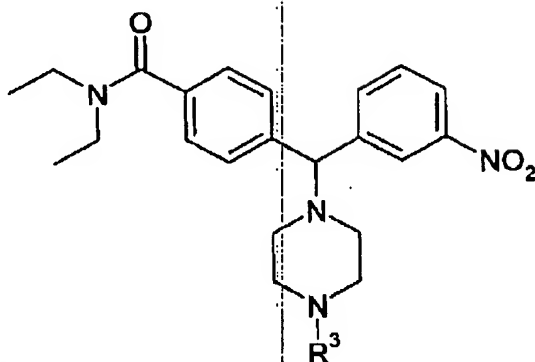


in the presence of a base having a pKa of more than 15  
wherein

X is a halogen.

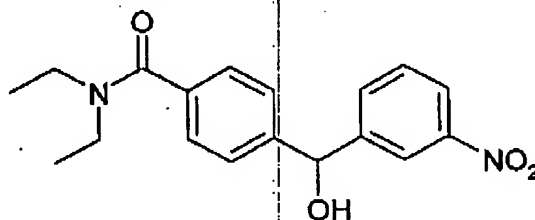
Claim 18. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula VI:

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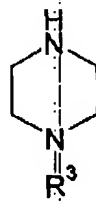
VI

comprising: reacting a compound of formula II



II

with a compound of formula VII



VII

in the presence of SOX<sub>2</sub> to form the compound of formula VI,

wherein

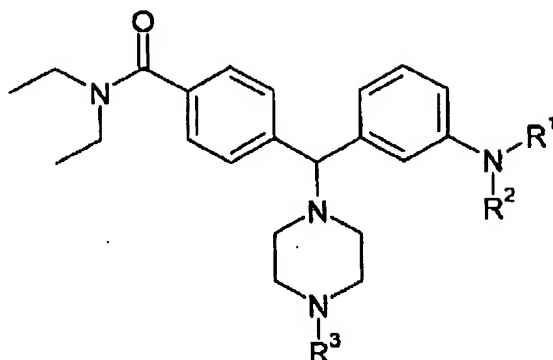
R<sup>3</sup> is selected from -H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy and halogen; and

X is halogen.

Claim 19. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula I,

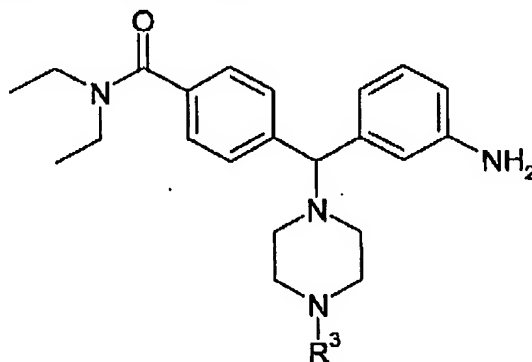


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I

comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

with  $R^9$ -CHO in the presence of a reducing agent to form the compound of formula I:

wherein

$R^1$  is  $R^9$ -CH<sub>2</sub>-, wherein  $R^9$  is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, N-oxido-pyridyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, thienylmethyl, furylmethyl, imidazolylmethyl, triazolylmethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, thiazolylmethyl and N-oxido-pyridylmethyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy and halogen;

$R^2$  is -H; and

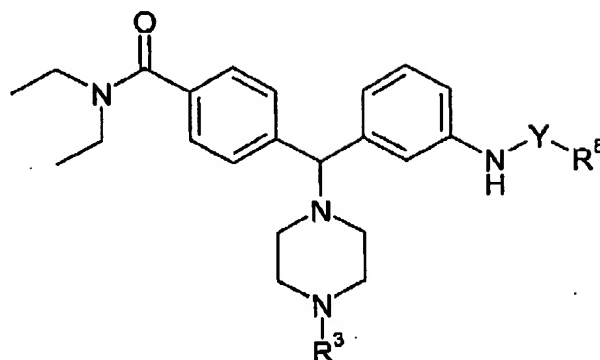
$R^3$  is selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy and halogen.

Claim 20. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula IX,

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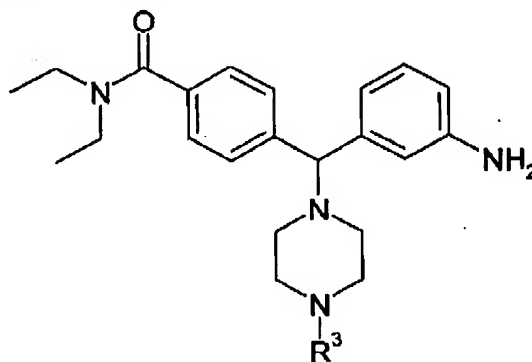
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IX

comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

with  $R^8$ -Y-X or  $R^8$ -Y-O-Y- $R^8$  to form the compound of formula IX:

wherein

X is halogen;

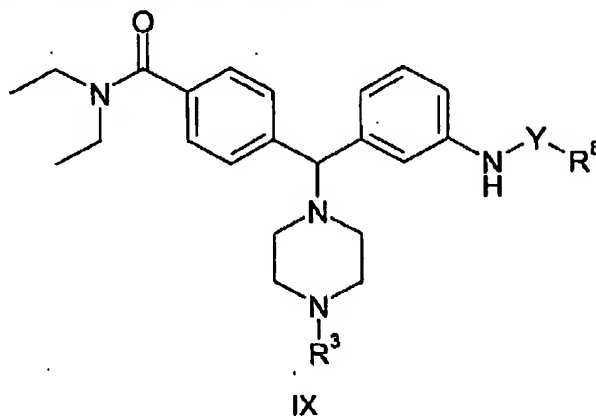
Y is selected from  $-C(=O)-$  and  $-S(=O)_2-$ ;

$R^8$  is selected from  $C_{3-8}$ alkyl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; wherein said  $C_{3-8}$ alkyl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl are optionally substituted with  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halogen,  $-CF_3$ ,  $-OH$ ,  $C_{1-3}$ alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and

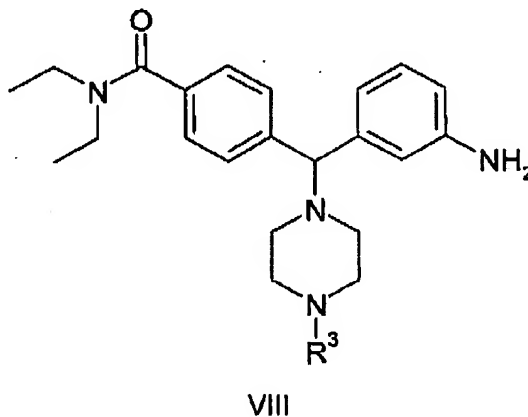
$R^3$  is selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-O-C(=O)-,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, wherein said  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-O-C(=O)-,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, halogenated  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $-NO_2$ ,  $-CF_3$ ,  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy and halogen.

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Claim 21. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula IX,



comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



with  $R^8$ -Z to form the compound of formula IX:

wherein

Z is selected from -NCO and -NCS;

Y is selected from -C(=O)NH- and -C(=S)NH-;

$R^8$  is selected from  $C_{3-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; wherein said  $C_{3-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl are optionally substituted with  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH,  $C_{1-3}$ alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and

$R^3$  is selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-O-C(=O)-,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, wherein said  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-O-C(=O)-,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, halogenated  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>,  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy and halogen.